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Truro Rural District Council



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1956

Truro Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health—

DR. V. E. WHITMAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Building Surveyor—

A. H. BENNETT, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors—

E. L. BURLEY, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I.

D. L. CUNNICK, M.A.P.H.I.

E. V. JOHN, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I.

(Appointed in October).

Meat Inspector—

G. T. CARTER, Cert.R.S.I. (Retired in October).

Office Staff—

C. R. WASLEY.

MISS D. M. SYMONS,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary condition of the Truro Rural District during 1956.

The year was a healthy one. There was a slight increase in the total number of deaths but the increase occurred entirely among those who had already attained the age of 75 years. Once again we had severe cold in the early months of the year and it was this that raised the death rate amongst the old folk.

I hope you will read Mr. Bennett's report very carefully and take particular heed of his references to sewerage. It is the unfortunate fact that many of our Council estates are still drained to what are called "Appendix K disposal plants." It is some years since I persuaded the Council that these abominations, despite the fact they have the blessing of the Ministry of Health (that part of it which is now the Ministry of Housing and Local Government) must be replaced as soon as possible.

A great deal of progress has been made in this work but we have some estates where the sewage still accumulates in stinking lagoons. The Credit Squeeze, which is largely to blame for this state of affairs seems to operate quite blindly, distinguishing not at all between essentials and luxuries.

Mr. Bennett makes a passing reference to the difficulties we have had with the water supplies at St. Agnes and Perranporth. The trouble at Perranporth is perennial. Every year there is a crisis and every year we take another nibble at the cherry. Such nibbles are expensive and get no one anywhere. Even now when we are committed to taking water from the Stithians Intake we have in my opinion grossly underestimated future requirements.

It is a pleasure once again to acknowledge with gratitude the support and consideration I have received from the Chairman and members of the Health Committee I should like also to thank Mr. Bennett and his staff for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

V. E. WHITMAN,
Medical Officer of Health,

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Except where otherwise stated figures in brackets throughout the Report are those for 1955.

Area, acres	...	...	108,316	
Parishes	...	...	24	
Population, mid-1956	...	...	26,690	(26,760)
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	10,712	(10,538)
Rateable value	...	...	£212,513	(£102,144)
Product of 1d rate	...	...	£880	(£416)
			(Est'd.)	
Number of houses built since 1945	...	...	952	(827)
Number of houses under construction			92	(109)
Number of families accommodated in converted buildings:—				
Cameron Estate	...	...	77	(77)
Trevellas Estate	...	...	14	(14)
Number of families accommodated in requisitioned premises	...	...	6	(14)
Number of families on Housing List			471	(414)
Number of applications for re-housing			12	(20)

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Males 190 (164)	Females 184 (158)	Total 374 (322)
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor		1.13 (1.13)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population, Truro Rural District		15.8 (13.6)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales		15.6 (15.0)

Stillbirths

Males 7 (5)	Females 3 (4)	Total 10 (9)
Stillbirth rate, per 1,000 all births, Truro Rural District		26.0 (27.2)
Stillbirth rate, per 1,000 all births, England and Wales		23.0 (23.2)

Deaths

Males 161 (193)	Females 215 (176)	Total 376 (369)
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor		0.81 (0.76)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, Truro Rural District		11.4 (10.5)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales		11.7 (11.7)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

Males 2 (8)	Females 2 (1)	Total 4 (9)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, Truro Rural District		10.7 (28.0)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, England and Wales		23.8 (28.4)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

Males 2 (5)	Females 2 (1)	Total 4 (6)
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Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates from 1950

The figures in brackets in this table are those for the United Kingdom.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1950	13.7 (15.8)	10.5 (11.6)	20.5 (29.8)
1951	16.1 (15.5)	11.7 (12.5)	25.4 (29.6)
1952	14.5 (15.3)	9.9 (11.3)	31.0 (27.6)
1953	14.0 (15.5)	9.0 (11.4)	29.2 (26.8)
1954	14.9 (15.2)	10.3 (11.3)	14.1 (25.5)
1955	13.6 (15.0)	10.5 (11.7)	28.0 (28.4)
1956	15.8 (15.6)	11.4 (11.7)	10.7 (23.8)

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

			1953	1954	1955	1956
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	4	5	3
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	1	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	3	2	2	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	3	1	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	11	11	8	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	4	10	7	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	4	1	5	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	4	6	4	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	37	38	36	34
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	2	2	—	1
Diabetes	...	...	2	2	5	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	33	41	57	65
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	49	60	47	59
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	5	8	5	4
Other heart disease	...	...	62	65	75	82
Other circulatory disease	...	...	11	15	10	14
Influenza	...	...	3	1	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	8	10	12	14
Bronchitis	...	...	10	8	8	12
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	6	9	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	8	5	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	2	2	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	3	9	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	7	2	10	3
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformation	...	...	2	4	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	38	39	33	30
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	2	3	1
All other accidents	...	...	4	6	6	7
Suicide	...	...	6	3	4	3
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	1	—
			320	367	369	376

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	Males		Females		Total	
Under 1 year	2	(8)	2	(1)	4	(9)
1—4 years	—	(—)	—	(1)	—	(1)
5—14 years	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
15—24 years	1	(4)	—	(—)	1	(4)
25—44 years	3	(6)	9	(8)	12	(14)
45—64 years	42	(50)	30	(23)	72	(73)
65—74 years	47	(51)	45	(45)	92	(96)
75+	66	(74)	129	(98)	195	(172)

76.3% (72.6%) of all deaths were over the age of 65 years.

51.9% (46.1%) of all deaths were over the age of 75 years.

In my last report I drew attention to the fact that nearly half the people who died in the district during 1955 had passed their 75th year. In 1956 51.9% of all deaths occurred in this same age group. It was due to the increase in this age group that accounted for the higher number of deaths this year. The death rate at 11.4 per 1,000 of population is still below that for the United Kingdom as a whole.

In recent years attention has been given to the perinatal death rate which is considered to be a very sensitive index of the sanitary conditions and the general health of a community. It is expected also that any adverse effects of man-made radiations, such as nuclear explosions, will cause a rise in this index at an early stage.

As the figures for the Truro Rural District are on the small side for statistical purposes I have compiled a table for all the country districts in this Health Area over a period of five years and for purposes of comparison have included figures for the County and the United Kingdom.

	Mid-1956						Quin
	Population	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Quenium
Falmouth M.B.	16,500						
a. Neonatal Deaths		5	2	6	2	3	18
b. Still Births		9	7	10	7	7	40
c. Live Births		228	252	229	236	259	1,204
d. Perinatal Death Rate		59.1	34.7	66.9	37.0	37.6	46.6
Penryn M.B.	4,330						
a. Neonatal Deaths		2	1	2	4	—	9
b. Still Births		3	1	1	2	1	8
c. Live Births		81	72	89	98	65	405
d. Perinatal Death Rate		59.5	27.4	33.3	60.0	15.2	41.2

Truro M.B. 13,510

a. Neonatal Deaths	9	5	3	5	5	27
b. Still Births	10	7	4	5	4	30
c. Live Births	193	189	190	176	199	947
d. Perinatal Death Rate	93.6	61.2	36.0	55.2	44.3	58.4

Truro R.D. 26,690

a. Neonatal Deaths	8	8	3	6	4	29
b. Still Births	4	8	15	9	10	46
c. Live Births	355	343	355	322	374	1,749
d. Perinatal Death Rate	33.4	45.6	48.6	45.3	36.5	41.8

Health Area 61,030

a. Neonatal Deaths	24	16	14	17	12	83
b. Still Births	26	23	30	23	22	124
c. Live Births	857	856	863	832	897	4,505
d. Perinatal Death Rate	56.6	44.4	49.3	46.8	37.0	44.7

Cornwall 338,760

a. Neonatal Deaths	106	98	60	93	89	446
b. Still Births	115	118	155	131	134	653
c. Live Births	4,881	4,785	4,780	4,422	4,720	23,588
d. Perinatal Death Rate	44.2	44.1	43.6	49.2	45.9	45.3

England and Wales

$$\text{Perinatal Death Rate} = \frac{(a + b) 1,000}{b + c}$$

40.6 40.0 40.9 40.1 39.4 40.2

It is at once evident that the figures for the Truro Rural District, though not so good as one would wish, are very little worse than those for the United Kingdom as a whole. It must be remembered however that these latter include London and other huge industrial conurbations in which clean air and sunlight unfiltered by smoke are the exception.

None of the figures give any indication that up to the present there have been any adverse effects due to nuclear explosions and other man-made radiations.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE, 1956

(i) Clinics	Sessions	Attendances
St. Agnes, Churchtown	22	292
St. Agnes, Cameron Estate	23	417
Perranporth	23	290
Grampound Road	23	317
Perranwell Station	21	253
Chacewater	7	72

The Chacewater Clinic which was opened in November 1952 at the request of a number of local ladies never had sufficient attendances to justify its existence. Closure was postponed time and again in the hope of improvement but was finally applied in July 1956.

The only clinic which increased attendances was at the Cameron Estate where there is a local Committee of mothers who do a great deal to make the clinic a going concern.

(ii) Ambulance Service

The Rural District is covered by ambulances and utilecons based on the Main Centres at Truro, Falmouth and Redruth.

(iii) Home Help Service

8 (7) maternity and 45 (42) other cases were given help in their own homes during the year.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases helped during the year. There were, however, far too many who applied for help and then changed their minds when they learned the cost. Another, rather surprising, difficulty is that spare time home helps cannot be easily recruited in the rural district. Help for people in Mylor and Flushing for instance has usually to be given by helpers travelling from Penryn or Falmouth.

(iv) After-Care

Grants of free extra nourishment were made to 3 (4) sufferers from tuberculosis on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

(v) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory examined and reported on 22 (28) samples of ice cream and 92 (66) samples of water during the year.

(vi) Nursing Service

	1953	1954	1955	1956
General Nursing cases	1,240	1,216	1,881	2,322
General Nursing visits	17,219	18,528	18,094	24,466
Midwifery cases	192	179	170	210
Midwifery visits	5,760	3,639	3,408	4,447
Ante-natal visits	1,439	1,880	2,151	2,360
General Health visits	6,339	8,617	11,256	8,939
Old Persons visits	4,024	4,024	8,761	14,200

Miss E. J. Jennings, Assistant County Nursing Officer writes:—

As far as the health visitors were concerned the outstanding event of the year in the rural areas was the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to St. Agnes. In spite of a great deal of propaganda work done by the health visitors and lay folk alike the results were very disappointing. Far too few people availed themselves of the opportunity to be certain that they themselves were completely free from the early signs of tuberculosis and other chest diseases.

With the co-operation of the W.V.S., the National Assistance Board, the Labour Exchange, the Red Cross Welfare Department and the Rural District Housing Authorities a young family which had been separated was enabled to start life afresh in a different home. Such work emphasizes the value of voluntary and statutory bodies working in close co-operation, the result has definitely been worth while but prevention is better than cure. Much of the health visitors' time is spent in trying to help families with an overload of problems.

The number of babies born in their own homes shows an appreciable increase with a corresponding increase in the number of ante-natal and nursing visits.

The Parish of Kea is without a district nurse/midwife/health visitor. The work is being covered by the nurses of neighbouring districts until a new appointment is made.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Age Group	Acute							
	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Encephalitis (Infective)		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	4
1— 2	—	—	1	2	—	—	4	13
3— 4	—	—	1	2	—	—	14	12
5— 9	—	1	4	9	—	—	29	23
10—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	7
15—24	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
25+	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
	—	1	6	14	—	1	61	63
Totals	1		20		1		124	

Age Group	Pneumonia		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia
	M	F	M	F	F
— 5	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	2	2	—	—	—
15—44	2	2	—	—	1
45—64	1	2	—	2	—
65+	2	4	1	—	—
	7	10	1	2	1
Totals	17		3		1

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases during the year.

Early in 1956 the Ministry of Health decided to offer vaccination against this disease to all children born in and between 1947 and 1954. In the Truro Rural District there were 3,075 children in this age group. Circulars were sent to the parents of all of them and 605 consents were received. Unfortunately a very small supply of vaccine was forthcoming and it was only possible to give two doses of vaccine to 77 children while five were given a single dose.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria occurred in 1956. 284 (333) children under five and 18 (23) over five were immunised against the disease during the year and 234 (257) booster doses were given.

It is estimated that on the 31st December, 1956, there were 1,337 (1,405) children in the Rural District between the ages of one and five years. Of these 972 (1,049) or 72.7% (74.7%) had been immunised against diphtheria.

Smallpox

No case of this disease occurred during the year.

47 (55) of the 374 (322) children born during the year were vaccinated. Also vaccinated for the first time were 97 (95) between the ages of one and 15 years and 18 (12) older persons, 67 (67) persons were re-vaccinated.

Tuberculosis

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	5	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—54	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
65+	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	9	8	—	—	2	1	—	1
Totals	17		—		3		1	

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the end of the year was 172 (162) pulmonary and 34 (37) non-pulmonary. This represents an incidence of 7.7 (7.4) per 1,000 of the population.

B.C.G. Vaccination

At the end of 1956, 709 (530) children had been vaccinated with B.C.G. Of these 299 (222) were contacts with cases of tuberculosis and 410 (308) were dealt with under the scheme for school leavers.

The number of parents refusing B.C.G. vaccination for their children was very low indeed. Many children attend schools outside the District. The 410 vaccinations previously mentioned were done in schools in the Rural District itself.

Mass Radiography

146 school leavers attending schools in the Rural District were X-rayed by the Mass Radiography Unit during the year. No disease or abnormalities of any sort were discovered.

The Unit also stayed a whole week during May in the village of St. Agnes. Every household in the parish was canvassed in an effort to get a large attendance but only 930 persons out of a potential 2,000 came for examination. Among these five active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, all previously unsuspected were discovered and thus began treatment earlier than would otherwise have been the case. This alone made the visit worth while.

Also discovered during this survey were seven inactive cases and 17 other conditions all of which needed further investigation.

It is easy to be disappointed by a less than 50% turnout but I believe the answer is to be found in more not less of such visits. It takes time and a lot of effort to persuade people to adopt new ways and it is up to those who believe in the value of Mass Radiography to provide the effort.

To the Chairman and Members of the Truro Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As in 1955 a great deal of time has again been spent on meat inspection, and in October, Mr. G. T. Carter retired after some 15 years with the Council, most of it part-time. Acknowledged as he was to be an efficient and conscientious officer who served the Council well, all those who knew him will wish him good health and happiness in the years to come.

Also in October Mr. E. V. John was appointed, and he and Mr. D. L. Cunnick spend most of their time on meat inspection, but are also available to assist occasionally with other work.

The needs of the District for main water supply are now well met, although there are still some extensions which should be carried out as soon as possible, notably to the village of Devoran. Improvements at St. Agnes and Perranporth are also necessary to maintain an adequate supply at all times, but you are, of course, aware of this and are taking the advice of your Engineers.

To my mind the urgent need now is to press on with village sewerage schemes as expeditiously as possible. Chacewater, in particular, badly needs sewerage. In some villages there is often not the garden space for cesspool drainage and owners of such property (now provided with mains water) are forced to buy more land, strain the ingenuity of themselves and me, or do without the bathrooms and water closets they want. Insufficient or unsuitable gardens, and open ditches, have caused drainage problems and nuisances in various places, accentuated of course by a piped water supply, and I do hope and urge that this important work of sewerage in the villages be allowed to proceed, where necessary, as fast as the Ministry will allow, and Chacewater is the scheme which should now be prepared and hastened forward.

In conclusion, I acknowledge with thanks the information on new Sewerage Schemes provided by your Consulting Engineers, and Mr. Truscott's report on Water Supplies. I also express my thanks to all the staff of the Public Health Department, who have loyally and energetically carried on their duties through the year, and so helped me with mine. A word of sincere appreciation, too, to the Council whose members, individually and as a body, have been very considerate and helpful in many ways; and last, but no means least, to Dr. Whitman, whose advice and support has, as always, been readily given when necessary.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. H. BENNETT,

Chief Public Health Officer.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

(a) Main Supplies

At Newlyn East water is purchased in bulk from Newquay Water Company, and, similarly, water is bought from Truro Water Company for Tresillian. The village of Devoran has its own piped supply from a small privately owned system, and Falmouth Corporation are responsible for the supply and distribution of water through their mains in the Parish of Mylor. Playing Place and the small community at Gloweth no longer take a supply from Truro Water Company, the Council now supplying these places from their Chacewater scheme.

The greater part of the District is served by the Council's two major schemes, both carried out since the war, namely the Ladock and South East Scheme and the Chacewater and South West Scheme. The parishes of St. Agnes and Perranzabuloe, however, were each provided by the Council with their own separate systems many years ago, and in recent years the hamlet of Shortlanesend, in the Parish of Kenwyn, was given a small scheme.

The various systems set out above provide mains water to all but a very few thinly populated parishes out of a total of twenty-four and, with the exception of the Devoran supply, all the water is chlorinated.

Supplies from deep well or borehole pumps on a number of the Council's Housing Estates are being gradually discarded in favour of main supplies, and Council Estates at Chacewater, Threemilestone, Gwennap and Veryan were connected during the year.

Short extensions of 3 in. mains have been carried out to serve new building estates at Shortlanesend, Probus, Feock and Carnon Downs, and a similar extension was laid to Loe Beach to supply the new Public Conveniences.

(b) Other Sources

Boreholes, springs, wells and rainwater storage tanks supply the needs of those members of the community still unable to take advantage of main supplies, and in a District such as this it is inevitable that such sources will always be required to a certain extent.

(c) Quality and Sufficiency

Regular samples were, as usual, frequently taken from the main supplies and the Analyst's reports showed that a satisfactory standard of purity was being maintained.

Samples from public wells and other private domestic supplies were not always as good, and when found to be polluted cleansing and protective works have been carried out, and, where necessary, notices fixed warning consumers to boil the water.

Rainfall for the year, as recorded at the Ladock Pumping Station, was 39.42 ins. In 1954 the figure was 43.76 ins., and in 1955, 34.77 ins.

The Water Engineer reports as follows:—

“The rainfall during 1956 was 4.65 ins. more than for the year 1955, consequently a satisfactory water supply was maintained throughout the whole of the Rural Area, with the exception of the Perranzabuloe Water Undertaking.

“Ladock Quarry stood up very well to the year's demands, as Trethem Pumping Station, at St. Mawes, was put into operation early in the year with the result that more water was available in storage at the Quarry than on the previous year. It was not found necessary to extract any water from the stream at Ladock during the year, firstly because the pumping from Trethem augmented the supply, and secondly the rainfall from April to October was more than the corresponding period of 1955 which naturally helped with the farm supplies and, no doubt, market gardens in particular.

“At Perranzabuloe the position became acute in June, when notices warning people of the need to conserve water and prevent waste were issued on June 4th. The position grew worse, with the result that an emergency pump was put into operation at Silverwell on 9th July to pump back water into the reservoir which was being wasted from an underground spring; in addition, the Cornwall County Fire Brigade loaned a pump to extract water from the Treamble Stream and pump water into the shaft, this pump was in operation from the 11th—14th July. After the latter date an electrically driven pump was installed as a temporary measure, and this extra pumping continued until the 25th September when this pump was withdrawn. During this period a maximum output of just over 1,000,000 gallons of water were pumped in a one-week period.

“Steps are being taken to obtain Ministry permission to extract water permanently from the Treamble Stream, this should then help to augment the supply in the Perranzabuloe Area.

“The hydrostat continues to give satisfactory service to Factory Terrace, Factory and St. George's Hill, Perranporth.

“St. Agnes Water Undertaking was not faced with the shortage of water to such an extent as Perranporth. Parts of the day in some areas the supply was restricted through the state of the distribution mains, some of which have been in the area for over fifty years. It is hoped to carry out some re-laying of the badly affected parts within the coming year.

"Satisfaction can be expressed with the supplies at Ladock Quarry and Wheal Daniell Shaft, the pumping stations feeding the Ladock and South East and Chacewater and South West areas respectively. Both pumping plants working efficiently and easily coped with all the demands of water required in these areas.

"In Portloe, trouble has been experienced with the old gratuitous supply, those properties connected to this pipe having a very poor supply. As a temporary measure the old supply was cut off at source and a connection made between the high pressure main and the old piping, this having the effect of increasing the pressure in the old corroded mains."

(d) Schemes in Hand

No new schemes were put in hand during the year.

(e) New Connections and Maintenance Work

Particulars of new connections are given in the table at the end of my Report.

Maintenance work carried out included attention to village pumps, standpipes and meters, and routine supervision of the Council's main supply pumps at Treamble, Gover, Ladock and Wheal Daniell. The frosty spell in February caused a number of burst standpipes.

During March one pump was removed from the Treamble Shaft for overhaul, having been in use for 5,000 hours. The stand-by duplicate pump was put into service while this pump was being overhauled.

A breakdown occurred in the electric motor at the Vryan Booster House in February, and it was necessary to have the motor rewound before being put back into use.

The Water Engineer pays tribute to the Pump Attendants at Ladock, Chacewater, Perranporth and St. Agnes. He says "I feel I must express my gratitude and appreciation to the pump attendants at Ladock, Chacewater, Perranporth and St. Agnes for the manner in which the pumping stations are kept. It does reflect that the attendants have a pride in their work and are proud of the satisfaction they have achieved in keeping these stations up to concert pitch."

2. Sewerage

(a) Goonhavern

The Sewerage Scheme, started last year, was completed in October. The Consulting Engineers report that over 2,000 yards of 6 in. S.G.W. pipe were laid in 1956. The scheme provides for serving 510 persons and allows for all foreseeable future development. Provision is also made for connecting the Council's Housing Estate site in O.S. Parcel 1942.

(b) **Tresillian**

Started in March. About 300 yards of main sewer had been laid by the end of the year. The pump house and disposal works were also completed.

(c) **Probus, Newlyn East and Portscatho**

The Engineers have prepared schemes for these villages, but as yet there is no progress to report.

(d) **Other Villages**

Main sewerage systems at Perranporth, St. Agnes, St. Mawes, Mount Hawke, Blackwater and Grampound Road gave no particular trouble during the year. The first three of these schemes discharge untreated sewage to the sea by gravity, except at Perranporth where it has to be pumped in stages by electricity towards its point of discharge.

3. Sewerage Works

Part-time attendants are employed on the works at Mount Hawke, Grampound Road, Blackwater and Goonhavern. It is hoped it will now soon be possible to engage permanent wholetime maintenance staff who will be responsible for all such works in the District.

The works at Grampound Road are most inadequate and major improvements are proposed.

4. Public Conveniences

The Council own twelve public conveniences, all but two (those at Tregoney and Veryan) being situated at seaside resorts. All are looked after by part-time attendants.

At Perranporth the Council continue to maintain the large, modern conveniences—built by the Perranporth Gardens Trustees—and a male and female attendant are employed there throughout the summer season. Part-time attendance only is given during the remainder of the year.

Two more conveniences have been built this year—one at Loe Beach, Feock, and one in the village of Tregoney.

Most are kept in a reasonable condition, but in three of them the standard is, unfortunately, not always as high as it should be owing to difficulty in obtaining the right type of person to look after them.

5. Cesspool Emptying

During the year 751 emptyings of cesspools were carried out.

A Karrier Yorkshire machine is in use six days a week. In addition, the machine has worked 562½ hours overtime, and it was necessary to hire Truro City's vehicle on 12 days and St. Austell Rural District Council's on three days, so that applications for emptying could be dealt with without excessive delay.

6. Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council's fleet of collection vehicles numbers four, namely two 10 cubic yard Dennis side-loaders and two 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantams—each manned by one loader and a driver/loader. One Bantam works two days a week only.

New garage premises were purchased in Truro, and after improvements had been carried out—including the installation of a petrol tank and pump—the Council's vehicles are now well housed and the semi-open accommodation previously rented is no longer required.

All the more populous parts of the District have a weekly collection, but in a few areas it is fortnightly, or, in a small number of isolated little communities, monthly.

Occupiers are expected to bring the bins to their gates on collection days, but over the years an increasing number have managed to get their bins fetched from their houses. In an effort to limit rising collection costs, notices were delivered to over 200 premises requiring the bins to be brought to the gate in future. In exceptional cases, such as old-age or infirmity, special consideration is given and the general rule is relaxed where circumstances justify it.

The method of disposal is by Controlled Tipping, and three of the five tips are kept in a very, or reasonably satisfactory condition. The others, where indifferent part-time labour is all that is available, are not as satisfactory as one would like, but they are so sited that there is little cause for real complaint.

Occasionally a bulldozer is hired if circumstances demand, and all tips receive regular rat destruction treatment. A tip dressing is applied as required to control the breeding of flies.

7. Salvage

The Council do not now operate any kind of salvage scheme.

8. Rat Destruction

One whole-time operator is employed with an 8 h.p. van.

Systematic surveys have continued through the year, and where necessary treatments carried out by methods approved by the Ministry of Food.

The Council's refuse tips and sewerage systems receive regular attention. No charge is made for treatments at private houses.

Infestations were of a minor character. Farm treatments continue to be carried out in the main by staff of the Agricultural Executive Committee with whom co-operation is maintained.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat

There are 17 licensed slaughterhouses situated in various parts of the District, although the bulk of the slaughtering is carried on in only three or four of them. Much of the meat is sent out of the County, mainly to Plymouth and London, and meat inspection is full-time work.

The Council invited butchers to meet a Committee and discuss ways of controlling killing so as to assist the Council in its efforts to secure an efficient system of meat inspection. The meat traders expressed their willingness to co-operate as well as possible, although several said they wanted to continue Sunday slaughtering. These latter were subsequently informed that if they persisted in Sunday working the Council would not carry out meat inspection on that day.

The position is now reasonably satisfactory, and there is very little meat that goes uninspected.

Probably the worst feature of the present situation is overcrowding. Some slaughterhouses, equipped with efficient mechanical appliances for the rapid handling of carcasses, have not sufficient hanging space to cope always with the output. It is to be hoped that the Ministry will soon issue Regulations and standards of construction which, together with a definite policy for the future, will enable the keen meat traders to improve or rebuild their premises to an acceptable standard.

Four new slaughterman's licences were granted, and 59 were renewed.

Other Foods

(a) Ice Cream

Most of the ice-cream sold in the District is prepacked, 88 registered retailers selling it in this form only.

Ice-cream obtained in bulk from the manufacturers is served by 22 retailers, and four premises only are registered for its manufacture.

Twenty-two samples were taken and the Methylene Blue Tests made by the Analyst gave the following results:—

Grade I	...	...	...	...	20
Grade II	...	...	...	...	2
Grade III	...	...	...	...	0
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	0

(b) Premises registered under Sec. 16, Food & Drugs

Act, 1955, other than for the sale of ice-cream ... 11

(c) Dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-54	...	...	...	...	2
Distributors registered under the Regulations	...				14

Thirty-nine inspections of registered food premises were made, and 34 visits were made to other food premises.

In addition, all 12 School Canteens in the District, under the control of the County Council, were inspected and a detailed report on each sent to the County Medical Officer. Conditions generally were found to be good, and those that did not comply in all respects with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, were, it was understood, being made to do so.

No legal action was necessary against any food trader, but one owner/occupier of a small village store was persuaded to give up voluntarily the food side of her business, the premises being totally unfit for such use.

HOUSING

1. Slum Clearance

Two Clearance Areas, comprising a total of eight houses, were confirmed by the Minister after a Local Inquiry. The property is situated in Tregoney.

After the first two Areas had been dealt with, it was found more expedient to transfer the work of inspection and preparation of plans and documents to the Public Health staff. Work has proceeded steadily through the year, although the number and size of Clearance Areas has not been large. This is due partly to the fact that owners can sometimes be persuaded to undertake reconditioning, and also because close inspection has in many cases revealed that conditions reported to be bad under the Rural Housing Survey were either not serious enough for the Council to make an Order, or those conditions no longer existed owing to improvements carried out since.

Apart from Clearance Areas, parish surveys revealed cases of individual unfit houses which were, or will be, dealt with separately. The table at the end of the Report gives the figures for the year.

2. Overcrowding.

One notice to abate overcrowding was served and complied with.

3. Other Housing Matters

(a) Improvement Grants

Eighty applications for grants were received and dealt with. Grants were approved in 74 cases. One hundred inspections were made in connection with these applications. Of those granted, 47 were to owner-occupiers.

Total grant given for approved works in 1956 was £17,503 18s. 5d.

(b) **Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899–1923**

The Council advances money under these Acts to assist people to buy houses and in 1955 advances were made in respect of 30 properties.

(c) **Housing Act, 1949**

Six loans to build houses were made.

4. **New Building Work**

During the year, 321 plans for the erection of new buildings or the conversion, or addition to, existing ones, were submitted to the Council. Ninety-seven plans for new drainage work were also dealt with.

WATER SUPPLY — NEW TAPPINGS, Etc.

Parish	New tapplings and communication pipes	Defective communication pipes renewed
Ladock	5	—
Grampound Road	6	—
Probus	15	—
Tregoney	15	—
Gerrans (Portscatho)	12	—
Veryan	3	—
Veryan (Portloe)	7	—
Ruanlanihorne	6	—
Perranzabuloe	23	42
St. Agnes	20	25
Newlyn East	2	—
Cubert	2	—
St. Just-in-Roseland	14	18
Philleigh	1	—
Chacewater & S.W. Scheme	447	1
Total	578	86

RODENT CONTROL

Total premises inspected by the Operator	...	2,891
Private premises treated ...	...	312
Business premises treated ...	...	19
Rural District Council property treated (Sewerage Systems and Refuse Tips)	...	46

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

Water Supplies ...	...	21
Water Samples taken for Analysis	...	92

Food Premises	52
Infectious Diseases	2
Premises Fumigated	4
	(18 rooms)
Lengths of Drain tested	561
Lengths of Drain re-tested	56
Drains inspected	96
Cesspools	115
Sewers and Sewerage Works	44
Public Conveniences	66
Refuse Collection and Disposal	64
Building Bye-laws	234
Premises inspected under Public Health Act (other than for housing defects)	86
Rats and Mice	13
Inspections of Council Houses	354
Caravan Sites	11
Life Saving on Beaches	6
Visits to Cameron Estate	17
Visits to Trevellas Estate	17
Unclassified visits	298

MILK LICENCES

The following licences were issued:—

Dealers licences to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	12
Dealers licences to retail Pasteurised Milk	18
Dealers Supplementary licences to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
Dealers Supplementary licences to retail Pasteurised Milk	1

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected	6,866		679	8,056	29,574
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole Carcases condemned	11	17	10	85	52
Tuberculosis only. Whole Carcases condemned	4	16	1	—	4
All diseases. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Cattle	...	...	over 841	
	Sheep	...	...	—
	Pigs	...	...	over 1,295	

Other Food Condemned

1 x 6½ lb. tin Peaches.
12 x 4 lb. tins Pork Luncheon Meat.

Condemned slaughterhouse meat is removed by a firm of Knackers, other foods are buried deep, under supervision, on the refuse tips.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year	
(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	116
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	120
Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	9
Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	52
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ...	12
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ...	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	3
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ...	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made 2

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 1

(d) Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

Number of dwellinghouses closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) 2

NEW HOUSING

Parish	By Local Authority		Total Completed in post-war period	
	Completed in 1956	Started in 1956	By Local Authority	By private enterprise
St. Agnes	8	—	76	28
St. Allen	2	—	8	4
Chacewater	3	—	23	3
St. Clement (Tresillian)	—	6	4	—
Cubert	—	—	12	7
St. Erme	—	—	12	4
Feock	—	6	34	53
Gerrans	—	—	32	6
Gwennap	4	—	16	3
St. Just-in-Roseland	2	—	35	31
Kea	—	—	30	24
Kenwyn	4	6	26	21
Ladock	4	—	20	2
St. Michael Penkivel	—	—	—	2
Mylor	6	8	59	31
Newlyn East	4	—	46	7
Perranarworthal	—	—	20	10
Perranzabuloe	12	—	71	60
Philleigh	—	—	4	3
Probus	—	—	46	10
Ruanlanihorne	—	—	8	2
Tregoney	—	5	26	1
Veryan	2	—	22	10
	51	31	630	322

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	38	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	4	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	—	—	—	—
	66	7	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	2	—

